

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A metal belt being formed to be endless by electroforming, and mainly containing nickel, wherein said belt comprises a crystal orientation in which  
5 a crystal orientation ratio  $I_{(200)}/I_{(111)}$  is not less than 80 and not more than 250.

2. The metal belt according to claim 1, wherein the belt has a crystal orientation ratio  $I_{(200)}/I_{(111)}$  of 100 or more.

10 3. The metal belt according to claim 1, wherein the belt has a carbon content of 0.03 to 0.10 wt%.

4. The metal belt according to claim 1, wherein the belt is substantially free of manganese.

5. A coated belt comprising:  
15 a metal base material being formed to be endless by electroforming, having a crystal orientation in which a crystal orientation ratio  $I_{(200)}/I_{(111)}$  is not less than 80 and not more than 250, and mainly containing nickel; and

20 a release layer formed on an external periphery of the metal base material directly, or with at least one elastic layer intervening therebetween.

6. The coated belt according to claim 5, wherein the metal base material has a crystal orientation ratio  
25  $I_{(200)}/I_{(111)}$  of 100 or more.

7. The coated belt according to claim 5, wherein the metal base material has a carbon content of 0.03 to

0.10 wt%.

8. The coated belt according to claim 5, wherein the metal base material is substantially free of manganese.